July 8, 1980

Director
Council for Tobacco Research-USA, Inc.
110 East 59th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Sir:

I would like to obtain application materials for research support. I am interested in vigorously pursuing advanced research studies dealing with natural killer (NK) cell mediated lysis of tumor cells. My sponsor and mentor is Dr. George Klein, Professor and Head, Dept. of Tumor Biology, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. We have been communicating about 18 months, and have designed some interesting experiments. Our research best fits your interests as towards the etiology and pathogenesis of leukemia. Please let me briefly describe the project here.

As you may know, NK cells are a lymphocyte present in normal, nonimmune animals including humans. NK cells lyse a wide spectrum of tumor cell types, but are particularly effective agains leukemias. There is now good supporting evidence to suggest that NK function as a tumor immunosurveillance mechanism.

We plan to generate NK resistant sublines from NK sensitive tumor cells. This is done by repeatedly exposing the NK sensitive tumor cell line to the cytotoxic action of normal lymphocytes. We shall study human leukemias. We will examine the genomic and cell surface characteristics of the NK sensitive tumor cells and its resistant sublines. Many of the analyses techniques are available in the Tumor Biology Lab (Klein, G., et. al., JNCI, 61:725, 1980).

Since we are able to obtain NK resistant sublines by this selection procedure, it is noted that a similar process may occur within the tumor bearing host, resulting in tumor immunoresistance. Thus, our particular project could very well be open to broad interpretations in the future.

If you think the Tobacco Council would consider supporting me via a fellowship, either partially or completely, I would be interested in receiving the application materials. My research proposal is now complete and contains additional details. If a representative is in the Ann Arbor-Detroit area, perhaps I could arrange to meet with him and talk some of these ideas over? My address is: 1950 W. Liberty apt. 6, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald Piontek

Gerald E. Piontek, Ph.D.

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